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The Banded Water Snake, *Natrix sipedon fasciata*, in Texas

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A typical female specimen of *Natrix sipedon fasciata* (Linnaeus) was collected by H. E. Crew on Jack's Island, 3 miles north of Orange, Orange County, Texas, in 1946. This record suggests the possibility that *fasciata* may be found in the gulf coastal plain of Louisiana and Texas for a distance of over 200 miles west of the Mississippi River, which was previously supposed to be the western limit of the subspecies. We hesitate to regard the specimen as certain proof since a series from the same and adjacent localities may reveal a population average nearer that of *Natrix sipedon confluens* Blanchard, heretofore the expected race in this area. The present specimen, however, seems a reasonably valid indicator of the occurrence there of *N. s. fasciata* inasmuch as (1) it is typical, (2) no specimens of *N. s. confluens*, to our knowledge, have been reported from the coastal area from the Mississippi River to Texas, where we envision this race occurs, and (3) many other gulf coast inhabitants have comparable ranges in Texas with no more extensive ranges elsewhere than *N. s. fasciata* possesses.

Since the specimen, now in the University of Illinois Museum of Natural History, represents the westernmost recorded locality for the race, the following brief description of it may be of interest: total length 766 mm., tail length 170 mm., ventrals 129, caudals 67, dorsal bands on body 25. The large number of dorsal bands and the distinctive squarish markings on the ventrum distinguish this specimen from the closely related form, *N. s. confluens*, in which there is a maximum of 17 dorsal bands and in which the ventral markings are larger and more irregular in shape. Furthermore, the entire head is light in the present specimen, while in typical *confluens* there is a conspicuous and characteristic broad, median extension of the anterior dorsal band onto the head, leaving only the sides of the head light (coppery).

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